California Biodiversity Council

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through collaboration among leaders and
cooperation across all levels of government
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Mainstreaming Application of Integrated Regional Conservation & Development (IRCAD)

Monday November 13, 2017 **|** 12:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Tuesday November 14, 2017 **|** 8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Paicines Ranch; San Benito and Santa Clara Counties, CA

Meeting Summary

Attendance by California Biodiversity Council (CBC) Members
John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and CBC Co-chair
Jerome Perez, USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and CBC Co-chair
Bruce Gwynne, California Department of Conservation (DoC)
Armand Gonzales, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Amrith Gunasekara, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Amy Bailey, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
Kamyar Guivetchi, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Todd Ferrara, CNRA
Sam Schuchat, California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)
Dennis Grossman, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)
John Donnelly, California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)
Peter Perrine, WCB
William Douros, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) / Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)
Tom Moore, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Larry Rabin, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Don Yasuda, US Forest Service (USFS)

Attendance by Council Support Staff

Denny Grossman, SGC, IRCAD Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, California DWR and Co-Chair, CBC Executive Committee
Don Yasuda, USDA Forest Service and Chair, Interagency Alignment Team

*(Refer to **Attachment A** for the full list of attendees)*

Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives and Agenda Review

CBC Co-Chairs Secretary John Laird, CNRA, and California State Director Jerome Perez, USDI BLM, opened the meeting by asking CBC members and other attendees for introductions.

Secretary Laird oriented attendees to the local area and commented that the intent of the meeting and field tours was for the CBC to go into the field and see firsthand what is happening in the region with regard to conservation. He highlighted the dynamic and changing conditions in the area, including development pressures from northern part of San Benito County as a bedroom community to the Bay. He encouraged attendees to visit the nearby Pinnacles National Park, California's newest National Park established under the last federal administration. CBC Co-Chair Perez underscored the return to the fundamentals of the CBC to connect, discuss members and partners' conservation efforts, and network.

The goals for this meeting were to:

- Share updates on conservation programs and initiatives across California
- Information exchange and networking among CBC members and participants
- Tour example of private land management that supports biodiversity and conservation
- Provide an update on the IRCAD work plan and program accomplishments

Report from the CBC Executive Committee and Interagency Alignment Team

CBC Executive Committee Co-Chair Kamyar Guivetchi of the DWR provided an overview of the Executive Committee's work since the January 2016 CBC meeting. The Executive Committee has continued with its responsibilities to implement the CBC resolutions, organize CBC meetings, and receive input from the Interagency Alignment Team (IAT). The proposed CBC organizational charter was shared with members in advance of the meeting (see full draft here). The purpose of the charter is to memorialize the past and document the CBC's updated approach for administration and operations. Moving forward, the full CBC meeting expenses will be funded through registration fees. CBC operations, such as the facilitation and program support by the Center for Collaborative Policy, will be evenly funded by CNRA and BLM. Secretary Laird asked for questions or comments on the charter. There were none. CBC members adopted the charter as written. Secretary Laird thanked those involved for their work on the charter.

IAT Chair Don Yasuda of the USDA Forest Service (USFS) Pacific Southwest Region, summarized the IAT's work, who have met approximately bimonthly since its inception in 2013 to discuss and implement initiatives and tasks as directed by the Executive Committee and the CBC. The IAT formed from a CBC resolution in 2013 to support the CBC and alignment of programs. The IAT would like to expand its meetings to CBC members; meetings are usually held in the Sacramento area and by webinar. CBC members are encouraged to contact the IAT Chair if interested in joining. The primary

issue the IAT is addressing at this time is the 2014 CBC resolution to partner with the SGC to advance the IRCAD process. IAT meetings are a great way for CBC members to brief each other on planning efforts and initiatives, and explore opportunities to strengthen efforts by working together. The IAT also supports the preparation and planning for the full CBC meetings.

Conservation Update Pop-Up Presentations

Don Yasuda, USFS, facilitated a series of short pop-up updates from CBC members on key conservation-related programs, projects, plans, partnerships, and tools. (See full Conservation Updates handout for more details and contact information for each pop-up presentation.)

1. **CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)** – Larry Rabin, USFWS
2. **State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Companion Plans** – Armand Gonzales, CDFW
3. **Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC Program)** – Mandy Latzen, DoC
4. **Merced County Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment Tool** – Bruce Gwynne, DoC
5. **Transportation Bill and Advanced Mitigation** – Amy Bailey, CA Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
    - Ms. Bailey (Caltrans) commented that Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, provides $30 million dollars each year for next 4 years.
6. **Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into Resource Management**– Brent Johnson, National Park Service
    - Mr. Johnson, NPS, commented that California Tribes are working to restore TEK in Pinnacles National Park, particularly through fire management of native perennial deer grass. After having been banned for many years, California Tribes led a prescribed burn in 2011, restoring a process (Indian burning) and a cultural resource.
7. **WCB Strategic Plan** – Peter Perrine, WCB

Conservation Spotlight Panel

Ted Frink, DWR, moderated a discussion showcasing four conversation projects across the state. (See full Conservation Updates handout for more details and contact information for each spotlight. Presentation slides can be found on the CBC website and are linked below.)

Conservation Strategy for 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP)

Lori Clamurro-Chew, DWR, gave an update on the CVFPP that was adopted in August 2017 by the Central Valley Protection Board. The CVFPP is the State's blueprint for flood risk management and planning. It identifies measurable goals and objectives for the five eco-regions in California, and the conservation strategy contains targeted species plans to address unique needs. CVFPP conservation strategies and tools are being employed to reach the CVFPP goals; one example of the strategy and tools in action is in the Urban Flood Risk Reduction Program. This program's primary strategy is to reconnect floodplains (e.g., creation of setback levees, which provide floodplain habitat and reduce flood risk). The CVFPP developed innovative tools for exploring floodplain restoration opportunities. DWR is participating in regional and local flood management plans and projects related to the CVFPP; one example is the Southport setback levee, which was the last of several levee improvement projects working toward 200-year flood protection for West Sacramento. The Southport setback levee included

a setback along four miles of a six-mile long levee. West Sacramento has a growing urban population, and this project was a rare opportunity to provide floodplain habitat in the area. The Southport setback levee project also achieves multiple benefits—improving flood management and flood safety, promoting economic sustainability, improving habitat, and providing enriching experiences to the public.

Forest Planning and Management

Don Yasuda, USFS, gave an update on several forest management related projects, including assessments and planning efforts geared toward improved interagency alignment and integration. Projects reviewed included:

- Forests and Rangelands Assessment 2017
- Forest Carbon Plan
- National Forest Plan Revision
- Interagency Tree Mortality Task Force
- AB 1492 Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program
- AB 1504 Forest Ecosystem and Harvested Wood Product Carbon Inventory
- Fire Memorandum of Understanding Partnership
- The Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP)
- The Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Advances in State Conservation Efforts

Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) Program, Assembly Bill (AB) 2087

Ron Unger, CDFW, provided an update on the RCIS program under AB 2087. He asked attendees to consider what we can all do now to create a desired future for California that strikes a balance to provide for our growing population of 40 million while also protecting the populations of the thousands of other plant, fish, wildlife and other species that rely on our state's unique ecosystems and resources, and how we can enable resilience in the face of climate change and other pressures. There is a need for more connected, ecologically-sound, and cost-effective conservation and mitigation. The development pressures at urban edges often mean high-spending on conservation and mitigation. Conservation strategies and actions in rural areas can be more cost-effective if done now than once development pressures are high. Rural areas can benefit from conservation strategies that can provide better-connected, less-fragmented habitat areas and well-informed land-use amenities for the region, all at lower conservation land acquisition costs.

Areas subject to potential development conflicting with protecting endangered species have often been addressed through the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program (State-implemented) and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) (federally-implemented), and through the establishment of conservation and mitigation banks. However, NCCPs/HCPs often require substantial time and resources to develop, and they are often jurisdictionally based rather than ecologically based. NCCPs, HCPs, and conservation and mitigation banks also are not present in many of the more rural regions of the state. The new RCIS program may be a lower-cost, faster approach to providing a conservation strategy in areas lacking existing conservation strategies and banks.

The RCIS program was developed to provide regional conservation strategies that identify ecological resources and conservation and habitat enhancement actions. RCIS program goals include achieving more strategic and effective conservation; promoting resilience to climate change; supporting infrastructure and other projects with efficient mitigation delivery; and supporting NCCPs, HCPs, and the Banking Program. The program consists of three parts:

1. Regional Conservation Assessments (RCA)—to assess conservation opportunities at an ecoregional scale. An RCA can help to guide an RCIS in the RCA area.
2. Regional Conservation Investment Strategy— to develop a voluntary conservation strategy that informs conservation investments and advance mitigation at a sub-ecoregional scale. An RCA is not required to prepare an RCIS; however, an RCIS must be consistent with an approved RCA.
3. Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA)—to provide an advance mitigation tool for use on public and private lands, including working lands, to offset California Endangered Species Act (CESA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA), and other impacts. MCAs are based on conservation and habitat enhancement actions of an approved RCIS and can be used to offset permanent and temporary impacts.

The RCIS program is voluntary and non-binding on local land use authorities. RCAs and RCISs can be proposed by any public agency. MCAs may be proposed by anyone. There is, in effect, no limit on the number of RCAs, RCISs, and MCAs that CDFW may approve. Although there originally was a cap of eight RCISs CDFW could approve, CDFW can now approve more than eight RCISs so long as RCISs are submitted with a support letter from a State water or transportation infrastructure agency.

Mr. Unger emphasized that the program is not just for mitigation. It is to provide conservation strategies that enable comprehensive conservation planning and investments, to protect and maintain habitat areas large enough and connected enough to support sustainable populations of California's species. The program is to enable species that are vulnerable and declining to be resilient and sustainable in the face of pressures such as climate change. It is also to enable advance mitigation opportunities throughout the state, including areas that currently have no NCCPs or conservation and mitigation banks.

The RCIS program offers the opportunity to identify potential conservation and habitat enhancement actions such as acquiring and protecting lands, restoring creeks and rivers, removing fish barriers, installing wildlife crossings, and restoring rearing habitat. The RCIS program is fee-based. Potential funding opportunities include SB 1 and 103, SB 5 (if it passes), non-profits, local planning agencies, and philanthropic organizations.

Areas of Conservation Emphasis Update (ACE-III)

Peter Perrine, WCB, presented on CDFW's spatial database of important habitats: Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE-III). ACE-II came out in 2009 and was only designed to address terrestrial biodiversity. ACE-III includes aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, addresses recreational needs, incorporates models for climate change and connectivity data, and brings in data from SWAP.

Mr. Perrine explained the ACE-III process. Resources are identified inside particular areas (hexagons), and more values result in a higher score. Stressors are included as overlays (e.g., projected sea level rise). ACE-III is a tool that can be used statewide and reflects the priorities of the CDFW. It is a powerful methodology to identify critical areas in the state and helps inform the WCB's funding decisions. ACE-III

is valuable because it goes hand in hand with the land acquisition evaluation process being updated right now. Public partners can also use ACE-III to better design project proposals for WCB funding.

Bay Area Greenprint

Liz O'Donoghue, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); and Dan Rademacher, GreenInfo Network, presented on the Bay Area Greenprint (www.bayareagreenprint.org) project. The project is now in the socialization and adoption phase of the tool, and attendees were encouraged to send comments and questions directly to TNC or GreenInfo Network.

A greenprint is a strategic conservation plan or tool. Several other greenprints have been developed across California and the nation. For example, the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint was done by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. The goals of the Bay Area Greenprint project include making biodiversity relevant to people who do not think about conservation; providing reliable and trustworthy information to decision-makers on how to incorporate conservation and mitigation into projects within a timeframe that is relevant to them; and raising awareness and increasing adoption of conservation strategies. In developing the Bay Area Greenprint, TNC, GreenInfo Network and partners Bay Area Open Space Council, Greenbelt Alliance and American Farmland Trust first identified the target audience and developed stakeholder committees to advise the project, then they worked with those audiences to address challenges. With the feedback and input, the team developed a way to present the data that was relevant to stakeholder needs. The result was an ecosystem services framework, or "nature's nine values," that addresses conservation benefits and the end users of those benefits. There are different ways to access the Greenprint, including an online interactive data dashboard, and a traditional web map with a data download interface. The tool can select a geographic area and generate a report with clear and well-defined information. The data are broken down across themes such as carbon, biodiversity, etc., and climate change issues are woven into every theme. Climate change impacts are framed as both threats and opportunities. Accountability and accessibility were both very important to the development of the Greenprint; all the data are downloadable, as are the metadata on methods and definitions (e.g., calculations for water yield).

Paicines Ranch Walking Tour

- Bruce Gwynne, DoC, moderated a discussion on the role of private lands in regional conservation. He emphasized the role of natural and working lands to provide fuel, fiber, food, and timber, and highlighted how Paicines Ranch is an innovative place working to go beyond existing incentives.
- Amrith Gunasekara, CDFA, discussed the importance of soil management and gave an overview of CDFA's Healthy Soils program, which provides incentives and funding for certain soil management practices as well as works with landowners and managers to set up demonstration projects. CDFA relies heavily on local partners such as the resource conservation districts (RCDs) to support and evaluate effective implementation.
- Sara Schremmer, CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), emphasized that agriculture is part of the conservation solution. RCDs are a great partner and underutilized network to deliver information and solutions due to their longstanding relationships with landowners in communities across the state.
- Kelly Mulville, Paicines Ranch, explained the ranch uses a holistic decision-making and management framework to determine actions that will increase biodiversity, build soil carbon, and reduce tillage. He showed attendees a recently installed vineyard designed to be managed

by sheep and use very little water. Succession drives management decisions on the ranch's rangelands, and the ranch partners with Point Blue and University of California (UC) Davis to monitor soil health and biology, and bird and vegetation populations. The ranch aims to mimic bison grazing on the rangelands through a planned grazing practice; they also are trying pasture cropping with legumes to build the soil health. With the new vineyard, the goal is to address social and economic management issues by employing female winemakers to use the grapes and share their story.

- Attendees raised questions and comments about the economics of biodiversity-friendly practices, integration of renewable energy technology, management difficulties, wildlife monitoring, and capital investments in innovative practices. Mr. Mulville commented that the upfront cost to install the new type of vineyard is higher than a traditional vineyard, but that the cost savings are recouped in approximately two years. The ranch installed solar panels in 2016, which supply 90% of the energy needs. There has been some resistance to move toward animal management from traditional farm labor sources, since people are concerned they may not have a job. Different approaches to farming and management require a big shift in thinking and changing the culture of agriculture.

Mainstreaming IRCAD Application: Review, Refinement, Collaboration, and Next Steps

Denny Grossman, SGC, gave an update on the progress for the IRCAD program. The goal of the IRCAD program is to better inform development and conservation together and explore opportunities to combine mitigation funds to address the most important areas. One main challenge is to create a more standardized way to develop RCAs so they can most effectively inform the RCIS program, the IRCAD application, and other complementary efforts. He reviewed the IRCAD two-year action plan from January 2016. The SGC has been working with the CBC, particularly the IAT, to advance this initiative.

SGC is working with the WCB to develop RCA demonstration projects to refine the methodology and demonstrate the feasibility of the IRCAD approach. The IRCAD Interagency Working Group has been developing the RCA methods for the demonstration project. The focus of one of the demonstration projects is in the Mojave eco-region that has many existing datasets. A second demonstration project will be in the Modoc eco-region, which has fewer datasets. The intent is to compare the two regions to determine the basic level of information needed.

He reviewed RCA process in the context of the Mojave demonstration project. There are three types of conservation targets in an RCA—species, vegetation types, and other special ecosystems/habitats. The IRCAD method uses a combination of global and state conservation statuses to assign a conservation value (e.g., likelihood of becoming extinct) to particular target. The specific conservation value for each target is then normalized by the level of confidence in the information source. He showed an example distribution map of conservation values in the Mojave eco-region. Using conservation values provides greater differentiation; IRCAD method is 1 km x 1 km, which is finer resolution than other tools. The IRCAD approach will bring additional data in the system (e.g., opportunities, threats, ecosystem service co-benefits, etc.) to help people make planning or management decisions.

The goal is to provide the tool as a public online platform, knowing that one size does not fit all. There is a need to build in variability to address different concerns; the idea is to build in flexibility to select only the data of interest, or to view all the data for context.

Jim Strittholt, Conservation Biology Institute (CBI), walked attendees through the current internal version of the RCA planning tool utilizing DataBasin, an online mapping and data analysis platform. He emphasized the importance of customization since the tool runs the model live as certain data layers are selected. A prototype of the tool was developed for the California Energy Commission. The tool has been developed to be interoperable with DataBasin, so the data from the RCA application can transfer into another system, giving maximum flexibility for different analyses. The application is also modular, so more data can be added as needed and as relevant.

Next steps on the IRCAD and RCA approach include:

- Refine the conservation value model;
- Refine the user interface with conservation value models and associated map products;
- Complete the demonstration project;
- Develop project evaluation and reporting tools; and
- Advance the statewide implementation strategy.

Partner Activities

- Peter Perrine, WCB, shared his perspective on the RCAs and IRCAD approach. He underscored the importance of being able to compare a data rich eco-region and data-poor eco-region to see if the methodology works across both types of areas. There are four main tasks associated with RCAs: develop the methodology; run the pilots in the two eco-regions; develop a platform specific to the WCB's needs; and conduct tool training and refinement. The program offers a lot of flexibility, and a lot of the data in the RCA tool come from ACE—the two systems will integrate well. IRCAD refines the information at a finer scale. This is a great way to combine CDFW and WCB priorities with eco-regions across the state.
- Stuart Kirkham, Caltrans, presented on the new Caltrans Advance Mitigation program. The intent of the program is to enhance communication between agency and stakeholders and to build upon existing Caltrans work. Caltrans has estimated some of the potential future impacts of its projects, and the program focuses on advance mitigation for those impacts. Caltrans' district offices have been engaged to discuss future project impacts and opportunities for mitigation projects. The goals are to identify regions of interest and then identify conservation goals and priorities in those areas — then they plan to engage with the RCA effort and the IRCAD program. Current program activities include conducting advance mitigation needs assessments, establishing a program steering committee and strategic vision document, and drafting program guidelines and procedures. The goal is to move forward with the first round of mitigation projects from this program in spring 2018.

IRCAD Open Discussion and Next Steps

CBC Co-Chairs John Laird and Jerry Perez facilitated the discussion on mainstreaming the RCA and IRCAD approach. Attendees were asked to consider the following questions:

1. What do you find most useful about standardized RCAs and the overall IRCAD approach?
2. What are the biggest impediments to the implementation of RCAs and IRCAD?
3. How can RCAs be improved and brought into practice?
4. How can your organization help to mainstream RCAs?

Comments, questions, and suggestions are summarized below. Mr. Grossman and Mr. Stittholt were available to respond to questions about the IRCAD platform.

- Wetlands, streams, and rivers are important to include in the list of conservation targets.
- The ecosystem approach is beneficial.
- The premise of the IRCAD program was to bring together the assessment community with the project proponent community, and AB 2087 provides incentives for partnerships. Pursuing public-private partnerships might be a good approach—for example, the State could provide the RCA, and then the private sector could move forward on the RCIS and mitigation projects.
- Given the spatial disconnect between jurisdictions and eco-regions, the tool would be most useful if done statewide, but cost is a big issue.
- Urban areas like the City of Los Angeles have periphery ecosystems and urban ecosystems that are often highly fragmented, but also may be biodiversity hotspots or have several endemic species that only live in a small area. Concerned that the tool may not prioritize some of these areas if the threats (e.g., fragmentation) outweigh the other conservation values, or if the habitat acreage or species prevalence is very small.
    - Response: The tool will not "de-prioritize" an area of high conservation value that is small. This is a planning tool to help answer questions about where things are on the landscape, and all of the attributes of the conservation value are included.
- Are their plans to reach out to the Nevada to think about inter-state connectivity, particularly in the Mojave region?
- Response: (Co-Chair Laird): This is a complex political issue and would involve a level of negotiation and engagement at a high political level. First we want to show that this approach works and show that the fears with this approach are unfounded (e.g., eminent domain). It is important to demonstrate the value of conservation in combination with economic development.
- What can be done to support partners with regard to data? How have you designed the system to accept or modify data as it is updated? How will the data for the tool fit with the Open Data Portal for resources? How do you see the IRCAD online map product incentivizing additional data collection or adding in data?
    - Response: The model is based on existing information. California is data rich, and we are still not always *effectively* using and communicating with the data we have. We are building the system to be able to partner with others on data and to accept new data as they come in. It is still important to identify and fill data gaps, which is what DataBasin tries to address. DataBasin is becoming more popular and common, and we are building a community of practice to provide rich information and the means to use it. Many data systems are in the process of being developed or already exist, so we are in conversation about how to reduce duplication and make the systems compatible with open systems. In discussions with county planning groups and other stakeholders about the potential value of the tool, many people say the more information available upfront, the more efficient their planning processes are. We want to help prioritize which datasets are critical for this tool to be most effective.

Day 1 (November 13th) Closing Remarks

The CBC Co-Chairs thanked the CBC members and attendees for a very productive meeting. Co-Chair Perez acknowledged and thanked the organizers of the event.

The meeting adjourned at 6 pm. Attendees participated in a networking dinner afterwards.

Day 2 (November 14th) Field Trip Highlights

More information on each of the field tours and presenters can be found on the CBC website.

TNC Pajaro Ranch Preserve

- Abby Ramsden, TNC, provided an overview of the region, Pajaro Ranch, and the Pajaro Compass project, of which Pajaro Ranch is a case study. The Pajaro Compass is a network that connects people working in conservation and agriculture, centered on six themes which include biodiversity, agriculture, carbon and soil health, recreation, community, and water resources. Participants collaboratively developed a vision in an open and engaged process with stakeholders. The project also developed a spatial planning tool. The Pajaro Compass network meets twice a year to discuss projects and topics (e.g., Pacheco Dam) and engage additional stakeholders.
- Sasha Gennet, TNC, discussed large landscape conservation in the Mount Hamilton region, which started over 25 years ago. The area has important aquatic resources, such as Soap Lake and the Pajaro River, as well as important bird habitat. Connectivity between the two mountain ranges was also a guiding consideration for TNC, which identified the Pajaro Ranch property as a key gap in the area. TNC purchased the property with the intention of maintaining the agricultural uses while restoring the connectivity value of the Pajaro River, which runs through the property. Wildlife monitoring on the property has shown that animals are using agricultural lands more than expected.
- Jenni Benson, Point Blue Conservation Science (Point Blue), discussed the climate-smart habitat restoration and the Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) Program run by Point Blue that engages students in habitat restoration on public and private lands. Students make positive impacts through projects that restore riparian systems, bay levees, and address invasive species. Pajaro Ranch is a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of climate-smart projects to the local community as this approach promotes creative partnerships and builds resilient landscapes.
- Matt Freeman, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) discussed the Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve Conservation Vision, which complements the work done by TNC and other regional partners to maintain agricultural land use, connect people to nature, and connect the mountain ranges.
- Attendees raised questions and comments about the process to engage local landowners in conservation, the types of landowners in the mountains ranges nearby, agriculture as a conservation solution, and how to address showing sensitive resources on maps. Speakers provided the following responses:
    - TNC started with landowners already interested in conservation to help guide outreach and messaging to others. Project partners built trust by featuring successful projects and providing tours to show people the work.
    - Landowners in the Santa Cruz and Diablo Ranges are a mix of public and private entities, including County parks, water districts, CDFW, and TNC.

    - With regard to mapping, the Pajaro Compass only used publically available information and limited the zoom function.
    - Agricultural practices on Pajaro Ranch that support conservation include reestablishing riparian covers, establishing a matrix of low-intensity (permeable) crops or orchards anchored by wetlands, and using animals as management tools.
- Attendees broke into three groups for specific site tours to further discuss climate-smart restoration, conservation agriculture, and gathering and using wildlife data. Key takeaways included:
    - Simple actions such as culvert maintenance is key to wildlife movement.
    - Wildlife monitoring ("camera diplomacy") can help landowners tell their story to demonstrate the value of agricultural practices that support wildlife.
    - There is no clear business model for wildlife connectivity mitigation. The long-term vision for the area requires engaging nearby landowners and partnerships are key.
    - High speed rail is a major consideration for the future.

En Route Presentation: Balancing Regional-Scale Conservation, Development, and Working Lands Objectives

- Andrea Mackenzie, OSA, gave an overview of conservation planning in Santa Clara Valley. The valley is a dynamic and changing environment with high rate of agricultural land conversion and a growing urban area. OSA and Santa Clara County partnered on developing a plan under the SALC program offered as part of the SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program (AHSC). Key findings of the SALC plan included that farmland conversion was caused by zoning issues; small agricultural parcels at urban edges are hard to farm; there are lost opportunities with lands being left fallow; and landowners need to be encouraged to use their agricultural land. The SALC plan put forward recommendations to rethink zoning laws on agricultural lands, incentivize farm owners to not sell their land, and put the onus on developers to mitigate. OSA is developing a regional conservation easement program, an ecosystem services payment program, and local procurement strategies for local food in schools and hospitals. OSA is also looking at projected impacts to connectivity and wildlife due to the high speed rail project.

Coyote Ridge

- Matt Freeman and Galli Basson, OSA, discussed landscape linkages and the Coyote Valley Vision. OSA is focused on preserving the northern section of Coyote Valley to protect linkages and wetlands, improve flood control, restore/mitigate, and create recreation opportunities. Coyote Valley is considered a "last chance valley" for conservation. The area is critical for wildlife movement, includes a seasonally emergent freshwater wetland (Laguna Seca), and is an important green infrastructure for flood protection and control. Coyote Ridge is part of 130,000 acres of nearly contiguous protected lands, which in turn connect to hundreds of thousands of acres of open space and core habitat in the Diablo Mountains. The area was originally envisioned as a city and the valley is not currently protected; however, local officials are listening to the discussion on how to protect it. OSA wants to apply the work done at Pajaro River to Fisher Creek, which runs through Coyote Valley. There are still deadly barriers to wildlife (e.g., Highway 101, Monterey Road), and OSA is working with partners to improve the infrastructure and identify areas to improve crossings.

- Walter Moore, Noelle Thurlow, and Neal Sharma, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), discussed how wildlife studies are informing linkage planning and strategic acquisitions. POST is partnering with UC Santa Cruz and Pathways for Wildlife on several wildlife movement studies across Coyote Valley. Study results are providing fine-scale movement data to identify travel routes, seasonal variation, habitat use, and cover preferences,. POST is a private non-profit that identified Coyote Valley as a top priority for protection, particularly the northern part which is ecologically and politically complex. POST acquired Fisher Flats, a 30-acre parcel near Fisher Creek, for which OSA will be the long-term manager. Land acquisition in the area is expensive compared with more rural areas. POST estimates $80 million dollars is needed to achieve its acquisition vision in the valley.
- Attendees raised questions and comments about flood modeling in Coyote Valley and potential pushback on conversion to open space (tax revenue impacts). OSA has an agreement with the water district to study flood issues and potential open space preservation benefits. The City of San Jose has indicated a focus on downtown development, and studies are underway to evaluate the capacity of urban areas to meet growth projections.

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

- Ron Unger, CDFW, and Andrea Mackenzie, OSA, shared perspectives and lessons learned on the Santa Clara Pilot Resource Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS). It has been a challenge to develop the first RCIS, but it a great concept for places without NCCPs/HCPs. The RCIS program was helpful in Coyote Valley because the area was not otherwise covered in an NCCP. Lessons learned included the need for CDFW to provide more direction on how to pick target/focal species, ensure consistency with NCCPs and existing mitigation banks, and streamline the process. CDFW is making revisions to the program guidelines to include identification of target habitats, communities, and landscape functions rather than species targets.
- Marc Landgraf, OSA, Jennifer Koepcke, POST, and Liz O'Donoghue, TNC, shared perspectives on potential connectivity policy and funding initiatives.
    - TNC is working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and SCC to explore creating an advance mitigation program for transportation projects. Pilot projects are underway in Santa Clara and the East Bay.
    - SB 1 includes advance mitigation funds and is a good tool to connect with RCIS to implement connectivity projects as conservation enhancements.
    - Other funding sources include the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund allocations for climate adaptation and resilience through the WCB, and Senate Bill 5 (California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018) (if it passes). Organizations and individuals might consider how to support the passage of SB 5 (e.g., through a campaign).
    - Senate Bill 732 (General plan: agricultural land) is an opportunity to work with politicians and DoC officials to identify eligible areas (e.g., soil type, not just land use).
    - AB 1608 (Vibrant landscapes) includes climate action plans, which need to incorporate natural and working lands.
    - Mr. Guivetchi, DWR, commented that legislation enabling Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFDs) allows entities to knit together different sources of funding.

Calero County Park

- Jared Bond, Santa Clara County Parks, discussed role of County parks in regional conservation efforts. He welcomed attendees to the newly constructed San Vicente entrance to Calero

County Park.. The parking lot and trails are anticipated to be open in early 2018. The area was acquired by Santa Clara County Parks as part of the regional conservation effort to protect serpentine rock-associated endemic species. The land is managed through grazing and other practices. Park managers work with grazers to achieve both grazing objectives and park objectives. Managing water resources for cattle and target species can be a challenge. The property contributes to the conservation strategy and the ecological goals and objectives of the of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan.

- Terah Donovan, Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (SCVHA), discussed conservation and restoration efforts with Santa Clara Valley Natural Community Conservation Planning/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) projects and partnerships. She highlighted the Claro pond and wetland project at Calero County Park. The goal of the project was to restore habitat for target species and provide a year round water source for cattle. The target species include Mt. Hamilton thistle, red legged frog, tiger salamander, and western pond turtle. So far the project has seen success with the thistle, salamander, and turtle species. Project managers lowered the pond level in September to manage for bullfrogs and crayfish and discovered over 400 tiger salamanders still residing in the pond, which had to be relocated to another pond location in the area.

Closing Remarks

Co-Chair Laird thanks attendees for their participation and encouraged them to attend the next full CBC meeting proposed for spring 2018 to be held in the Mojave eco-region.

List of Attachments/Links

A - Full List of Attendees
B - Web link to Presentation Slides
C - Web link to Draft CBC Organizational Charter
D - Web link to Field Tours Speakers and Program Information
E - Summary of Submitted Comments

Attachment A – Full List of Attendees

Day 1 (November 13th) Attendees:

1. Amy Bailey, Caltrans
2. Jenni Benson, Point Blue
3. Ben Best, EcoQuants
4. Mary Burke, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden
5. John Carlon, River Partners
6. Lori Clamurro-Chew, DWR
7. Alex Cole-Weiss, Center for Collaborative Policy
8. Zooey Diggory, Santa Clara Valley Water District
9. Eoin Doherty, Environmental Incentives, LLC
10. John Donnelly, WCB
11. William Douros, NOAA/ONMS
12. Todd Ferrara, CNRA
13. Thomas Filler, DWR
14. Matt Freeman, OSA
15. Ted Frink, DWR
16. Daniel Gluesenkamp, California Native Plant Society
17. Armand Gonzales, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
18. Dennis Grossman, SGC
19. Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
20. Amrith Gunasekara, CDFA
21. Bruce Gwynne, DoC
22. Stephanie Horii, Center for Collaborative Policy
23. Junko Hoshi, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
24. Patrick Huber, UC Davis
25. Brent Johnson, National Park Service
26. Stuart Kirkham, Caltrans
27. Jennifer Koepcke, POST
28. John Laird, CNRA
29. Mandy Latzen, Doc
30. AndreaMackenzie, OSA
31. Tom Moore, USDA NRCS
32. Skip Moss, Natural Resources Group, Inc.
33. Kelly Mulville, Paicines Ranch
34. Peggy Nguyen, City of Los Angeles
35. Liz O'Donaghue, TNC
36. Bruce Orr, Stillwater Sciences
37. Dustin Pearce, CBI
38. Jerry Perez, BLM
39. Peter Perrine, WCB
40. Larry Rabin, USFWS
41. Dan Rademacher, GreenInfo Network
42. Abby Ramsden, TNC
43. Katie Riley, Environmental Incentives, LLC
44. Sara Schremmer, CARCD
45. Sam Schuchat, SCC
46. Nancy Siepel, Caltrans
47. Jim Strittholt, CBI
48. Greg Suba, California Native Plant Society
49. Edmund Sullivan, SCVHA
50. Jim Thorne, UC Davis
51. Noelle Thurlow, POST
52. Ron Unger, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
53. Mackenzie Wieser, SGC
54. Don Yasuda, USFS

Day 2 (November 14th) Attendees:

1. Amy Bailey, Caltrans
2. Galli Basson, OSA
3. Jenni Benson, Point Blue
4. Ben Best, EcoQuants
5. Jared Bond, Santa Clara County Parks
6. Kristen Boysen, Environmental Incentives, LLC
7. Mary Burke, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden
8. Catherine Caldwell, CA Department of Parks and Recreation
9. John Carlon, River Partners
10. Lori Clamurro-Chew, DWR

11. Alex Cole-Weiss, Center for Collaborative Policy
12. Tanya Diamond, Pathways for Wildlife
13. Terah Donovan, SCVHA
14. Todd Ferrara, CNRA
15. Thomas Filler, DWR
16. Matt Freeman, OSA
17. Ted Frink, DWR
18. Terri Gaines, Delta Stewardship Council
19. Joelle Garretson, OSA
20. Sasha Gennett, TNC
21. Armand Gonzales, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
22. Dennis Grossman, SGC
23. Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
24. Bruce Gwynne, DOC
25. Stephanie Horii, Center for Collaborative Policy
26. Junko Hoshi, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
27. Patrick Huber UC Davis
28. Brent Johnson, National Park Service
29. Stuart Kirkham, Caltrans
30. Jennifer Koepcke, POST
31. Debra Kustic, Sac.-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
32. John Laird, CNRA
33. Marc Landgraf, OSA
34. Mandy Latzen, DOC
35. AndreaMackenzie, OSA
36. Walter Moore, POST
37. Skip Moss, Natural Resources Group, Inc.
38. Peggy Nguyen, City of Los Angeles
39. Seth Nitschke, Mariposa Ranch
40. Liz O'Donaghue, TNC
41. Bruce Orr, Stillwater Sciences
42. Dustin Pearce, CBI
43. Jerry Perez, BLM
44. Abby Ramsden, TNC
45. Katie Riley, Environmental Incentives, LLC
46. Neal Sharma, POST
47. Nancy Siepel, Caltrans
48. Jim Strittholt, CBI
49. Edmund Sullivan, SCVHA
50. Noelle Thurlow, POST
51. Doug Titus, Santa Clara Valley Water District
52. Ron Unger, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
53. Mackenzie Wieser, SGC
54. Don Yasuda, USFS

Attachment E – Summary of Submitted Written Comments

- Discuss in advance of CBC meetings if there are any relevant marine or coastal projects to integrate into the meeting. Maybe better than having dedicated marine meetings. The land connects to the sea, and always pondering how they connect in a meeting is prudent